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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,999	10/24/2001	Derek K. Gauger	GDK-100-B	9338
7590 08/03/2009 YOUNG & BASILE, P.C. Suite 624 3001 West Big Beaver Road Troy, MI 48084-3107				
EXAMINER VIG, NARESH				
ART UNIT 3629		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 08/03/2009		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/039,999

Applicant(s)

GAUGER, DEREK K.

Examiner

NARESH VIG

Art Unit

3629

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 6, 9, 34, 41 and 52 - 59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 6, 9, 34, 41 and 52 - 59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is in reference to communication received 29 May 2009. Claims 1 - 6, 9, 34, 41 and 52 - 59 are pending for examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments and concerns are for amended claims which have been responded to in response to pending amended claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1 - 6, 9, 34, 41 and 52 - 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As currently claimed, it is not clear which limitations are performed by the interactive computer, and which of the limitations are performed by a human.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 - 6, 9, 34, 41 and 52 - 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. US Patent 5,765,140 in view of Jenkins US Patent 7,213,030.

Regarding claim 1, Knudson teaches computer implemented9 system and method for managing at least one project [Knudson, Fig. 1 2 and disclosure associated with the figures]. Knudson teaches capability for:

establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer software system [Knudson, Fig. 4 and disclosure associated with the figure];

activating at least two or more information modules of different types for the at least one project [Knudson, Fig. 4 and disclosure associated with the figure];

facilitating organization of and access to project information. Even though, Knudson does not explicitly recite what specific type of information is controlled and displayed, however, Knudson teaches concept of storing, displaying and controlling of information [Knudson, col. 5, lines 15 – 31, Fig. 4 and disclosure associated with the figure]. **One of ordinary skill in the art could have modified Knudson to add**

additional categories as desired to meet business requirements, apply a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results.

Knudson teaches capability for:

facilitating organization of and access to project information as each information module is operative to store, display and control information of a specific type including categories of project planning, project tasks, project issues, project progress reports, project finances, project meetings, requests for information, project documents, collaboration center, and review requests;

Knudson does not explicitly recited providing of project documents to be stored. However, Knudson teaches providing and storing of project plans, providing feedback to project plans [Knudson, Fig. 3 and disclosure associated with the Figure]. Jenkins teaches web enabled transaction and collaboration management system and method with the capability of providing project documents to be stored and displayed [Jenkins, Fig, 45 – 52 and disclosure associated with the Figures]

Therefore, at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Knudson by adopting teachings of Jenkins to have the documents associated with a project available to authorized users associated with the task, apply a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results, known work in one field of endeavor may prompt variations of it for use in either the same field or a different one based on design

incentives or other market forces if the variations would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for:

providing project documents to be stored, and displayed in and accessed from both the document module and other information modules [Jenkins];

defining authorized individuals who have access to the interactive computer system providing electronic data interchange for a project [Knudson];

creating an electronic collaboration center as one of the information modules on the computer software system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project in an individual collaboration [Knudson, Jenkins];

defining collaboration approved individuals for access to collaborations in the collaboration center by the authorized individuals [Knudson, Jenkins];

defining at least one collaboration in the collaboration center associated with the at least one project to facilitate the resolution of at least one of a project issue and project problem the at least one collaboration including a collaboration leader, a collaboration topic, a collaboration status and at least one of a text based collaboration summary, and a text based collaboration status statement;

defining access to the collaboration by the collaboration approved individuals [Knudson, Jenkins];

the collaboration containing and allowing access to all information relating to the collaboration as a central point of collaboration information [Knudson, Jenkins];

allowing the collaboration leader to modify at least one of the collaboration summary, the collaboration status and the collaboration status statement [Knudson, Jenkins];

accepting input information at the collaboration center from the authorized individuals to facilitate resolution of at least one project issue and a project problem of the collaboration [Knudson, Jenkins];

providing the collaboration center and individual collaborations within the collaboration center with the capability of receiving documents and updating a document information module with the documents [Jenkins];

providing the collaboration center and individual collaborations with the capability of defining tasks as an action plan for resolution of one of the project issue and project problem and updating the project tasks information module with the defined tasks in the individual collaboration [Knudson, Jenkins]; and,

providing the collaboration center and individual collaborations with the capability of closing the collaboration to an archived state [Knudson, Jenkins].

Regarding claim 2, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for allowing all authorized individuals to perform at least one of review, submit, author, and change data and to interact with other authorized individuals electronically in the collaboration center.

Regarding claim 3, notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the collaboration purpose, the deadline, the collaboration action plan, and input information [Jenkins, and email is automatically generated to the users designated as responsible and discussion parties for the item notifying them of the critical date].

Regarding claim 4, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for:
forwarding one of a question and an issue involving at least one element of the collaboration to be decided by all collaboration approved individuals;

Knudson in view of Jenkins does not explicitly recite accepting votes for an issue, however, **it is old and known that in business meetings, team leaders like Project Manager solicits votes from authorized team members to make an educated decision, gauge popularity of a motion, etc.**

Therefore, at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Knudson in view of Jenkins and solicit votes from authorized team members to make an educated decision, gauge popularity of a motion, etc.

Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for:
accepting votes of collaboration approved individuals for the issue on at least one element of the collaboration;
making a decision by the collaboration leader on the issue based in part on the votes; and
displaying the results of the vote.

Regarding claim 5, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for maintaining and displaying at least one of the collaboration summary, the collaboration status, and the collaboration status statement of each collaboration.

Regarding claim 6, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for providing the collaboration center with the capability of receiving documents attached to authorized individual responses [Knudson, col. 21, lines 49 – 50]. Also, **attaching file as an attachment to a response is old and known technology known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.**

Regarding claim 9, Knudson in view of Jenkins [Knudson, col. 21, lines 14 – 67] teaches capability for:

using bi-directional electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules;

generating and sending an electronic mail request to an authorized individual;
the authorized individual replying to the software system by electronic mail; and
the information modules automatically documenting the reply and any documents attached to the reply in the appropriate information module by updating the information in the appropriate information module.

Regarding claim 34, Knudson in view of Jenkins [Knudson, col. 21, lines 14 – 67] teaches capability for:

using bi-directional electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules;

generating and sending an electronic mail request to an authorized individual;
providing an electronic mail response capability for at least certain of the requests and notifications issued in any of the information modules allowing an authorized user to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail reply;
the authorized individual replying to the software system by electronic mail; and
the information modules automatically documenting the reply and any documents attached to the reply in the appropriate information module by updating the information in the appropriate information module.

Regarding claim 41, even though, Knudson in view of Jenkins does not explicitly teach providing electronic notepad, however, **it is old and known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention, that electronic notepads can be provided to a user to enable the user to make comments to specific part of the document. For example, Microsoft Office provides electronic notepad capability for the users to document their comments in any area of the page of the document.**

Therefore, at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Knudson in view of Jenkins by providing electronic notepad to enable the users to make their comments within the document, apply a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results, known work in one field of endeavor may prompt variations of it for

use in either the same field or a different one based on design incentives or other market forces if the variations would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for:

providing an electronic notepad for each authorized individual to make personal notes about any item of information in the network relating to the project; and

attaching the personal notes to associated items of information for use only by the authorized individual.

Regarding claim 52, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for:

linking at least two information items in at least two different information modules for bi-directional data navigation between the at least two information items; and

providing a link to each of the information items allowing the authorized individual to directly navigate to the linked information item in another information module.

Regarding claim 53, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for:

defining by a project leader a plurality of organizational categories;

specifying the name of one authorized individual as the request recipient for each defined organization category for the purpose of defining individuals to which project requests for information relating to the respective organizational category will be routed; and

routing a request for information relating to at least one organizational category from at least one authorized individual to the first request recipient for the organizational category

Regarding claim 54, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for:
issuing a request for project review by an authorized project individual;
designating a plurality of designated recipients of the review request by an authorized individual (**sending email to plurality of team members**);

providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by one in parallel from each designated review recipient (**each recipeint replies independently**) and in series from all of the designated review recipients (**old and known that in chain of approval, reviewed and responded to in series**);

providing for the delivery of the review request to the designated recipients in one of:

directly in parallel providing each of the designated recipients with the capability of one of replying to the review request directly, delegating the review request to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to a requestor of the request for review, and delegating the request for review to a designated recipient with the designated recipient's response routed to the designated recipient for review prior to delivery to the requestor;
and to a designated first recipient directly;

providing the first designated recipient of one of replying to the review request for direct delivery, delegating the request for review to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to a requestor of the request for review delegating the request for review to a designated recipient with the designated recipient's response routed to the first designated recipient for review prior to the requestor; and

serially delegating the review request to a next designated recipient having the same reply and delegating options to deliver a reply to requestor.

Regarding claim 55, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for defining at least one of collaboration purpose, a collaboration action plan and deadline for the collaboration.

Regarding claim 56, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability wherein the linked information modules can be at least two of an information module project plan, an information module task manager, an information module issue manager and an information module collaboration center.

Regarding claim 57, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for:

providing a project plan having a plurality of items;

linking each item to a set of tasks;

linking any item and task to an issue describing a problem and a call for action;
and

linking all of the information and actions associated with the issue to the tasks
and the project plan item.

Regarding claim 58, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for linking all
of the information and actions associated with the issue to the collaboration.

Regarding claim 59, Knudson in view of Jenkins teaches capability for providing
a summary view of the information related to the collaboration.

**Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Knudson et al. US Patent 5,765,140 in view of Jenkins US Patent 7,213,030 and
Cohen et al. US Patent 6,507,845**

Regarding claim 41, Knudson in view of Jenkins does not explicitly teach
providing electronic notepad, however, Cohen teaches system and method for providing
electronic notepad [Cohen, Fig. 9 and disclosure associated with the figure].

Therefore, at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary
skill in the art to modify Knudson in view of Jenkins by adopting teachings of Cohen and
provide electronic notepad to enable the users to make their comments within the

document, apply a known technique to a known device (method, or product) ready for improvement to yield predictable results, known work in one field of endeavor may prompt variations of it for use in either the same field or a different one based on design incentives or other market forces if the variations would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Knudson in view of Jenkins and Cohen teaches capability for:

providing an electronic notepad for each authorized individual to make personal notes about any item of information in the network relating to the project; and

attaching the personal notes to associated items of information for use only by the authorized individual.

Conclusion

Applicant is required under 37 CFR '1.111 (c) to consider the references fully when responding to this office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NARESH VIG whose telephone number is (571)272-6810. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 7:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

August 1, 2009

/Naresh Vig/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3629